Oklahoma Accountancy Board BULLETIN

July 2015

It's Time to Brag!!!

As the regulatory agency for our profession, we are charged not only with compliance issues of the accounting profession, but also with administering the annual registration of our Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and Public Accountants (PAs). In that regard, you are the Oklahoma Accountancy Board's (OAB) customers! The OAB strives to make it easier for you to register and maintain compliance with the Board.

One measurement we use to track compliance issues is to count the number of registrants who, for whatever reason, have allowed their certificate and permit (if applicable) to lapse or revoke by failing to register. Prior to 2013, the number of lapsed registrants exceeded 100 people each month, while the number of revoked registrants exceeded 25. Therefore, the Accountancy Board instituted multiple reminders to registrants in order to reduce lapsed/revoked numbers, including courtesy emails, courtesy phone calls, and sending the reminder magnets to each registrant. The results are in. The number of lapsed registrants has been reduced to less than 30 per month and the number of revoked registrants has shrunk by two-thirds.

What does this mean for you? When a registrant goes into a lapsed or revoked status, they incur late fees, reinstatement fees, and may be required to purchase and take the AICPA Comprehensive Ethics course. By reducing this number, the OAB has left nearly $1 million in the pockets of our registrants. This is real money that our registrants have not had to pay because they forgot to file or did not file timely. The above figure does not count the inconvenience or aggravation factor when forgetting to complete your registration or completing it late. The Board believes the reminder efforts have been successful and the statistics prove it. Your Board is working for you!

Randall A. Ross, CPA
Executive Director

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The *Oklahoma Accountancy Board Bulletin* is the official publication of the Oklahoma Accountancy Board.

A MEMBER OF NASBA

Employment Status – Retired...or Not?

When completing the registration renewal form, it is common for registrants to select a retired employment status on the primary employment field, while then indicating a sole proprietorship or other employment on the secondary employment field. Retired employment status is defined as "retired from all forms of employment; no longer employed."

To avoid any issues with your renewal process, do not select a retired primary employment status unless you are retired from both primary and secondary employment positions. For example, if you have retired from your main employer and still hold a permit to practice, or are working in another capacity, you should not choose the retired primary employment status. Instead, you should indicate your employment status in the primary employment field. You are not required to report volunteer or non-compensated work. ★

CAMERON UNIVERSITY

Board Meeting Held on Local Campus

On April 17, 2015, the OAB held its monthly Board meeting on the campus of Cameron University in Lawton. As a continuing commitment to outreach, the Board holds two Board meetings per year on the campus of one of Oklahoma's universities. This not only affords students access to resources to help them start their accounting careers, but also acquaints them with the Board and the processes which govern the profession in the State of Oklahoma.

The Board wishes to thank Teresa Briggs and faculty for helping facilitate the meeting. Thank you to all who attended! ★

Board Recognizes Employees for Continued Service

The OAB would like to recognize the following employees for their years of service with the State of Oklahoma. Each employee was presented with a years of service pin. Their contributions to the public sector are greatly appreciated!

<u>10 Years</u>
Colin Autin, Deputy Director and Peer Review
Jason Doss, Licensing Coordinator
Chloe Nettey, CPA, Accountant II

<u>5 Years</u>
LaLisa Semrad, Enforcement Coordinator

Spring New CPA Recognition Ceremony

On May 30, 2015, OAB staff and several Board members convened at the Oklahoma State Capitol to recognize Oklahoma's newest CPAs. Former Board Chair, Mike Sanner, CPA, addressed attendees, emphasizing the important nature of the accounting profession, and briefly explaining the role of the Board. Board Member, Marc Delametter, CPA, then led the new CPAs in reciting the Oklahoma Accountants' Pledge. As family and friends looked on, 33 new CPAs were presented their Oklahoma CPA certificates.

Oklahoma Society of CPAs (OSCPA) President, Robin Byford, CPA, recognized two individuals for achieving the highest scores in their respective windows. Trevor S. Horstmann and Kristen M. Fennema, both of Tulsa, were awarded the OSCPA's Silver Medal Award for their achievements.

The Board would like to congratulate the award winners and all of the new CPAs for their special achievements. OAB Board members and staff also extend their gratitude to the many friends and families that helped make the day memorable. ★

Former Board Chair, Mike Sanner, CPA, addresses new CPAs

Board Member, Marc Delametter, CPA, leads new CPAs in the Accountants' Pledge

Robin Byford, CPA, Presents Silver Medal Award to Kristen M. Fennema

CPE EXEMPTIONS – IMPORTANT REMINDER!

The Board must have an approved exemption affidavit on file for your CPE exemption to be valid. Selecting the exemption option on the registration renewal is not how you apply for an exemption; this is only how you record your exemption once it has been approved. Exemption forms are located under the Forms/CPE section of our website at www.ok.gov/oab. Once the Board receives the form, an approval or denial letter will be sent to you. If you have any questions regarding your status please contact the Board at (405) 521-2397. ★

NON-STANDARD LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Many of our registrants take specialized industry programs offered through industry sponsors. Often a certificate of completion is not provided to the registrant. PowerPoint slides, agendas, registration receipts, or evaluation sheets are not acceptable forms of CPE documentation. Please make sure to complete a Non-Standard Learning Form to document these activities in order to receive credit. The form requires a signature from the sponsor or instructor of the activity. Please visit the Forms section on the OAB website at www.ok.gov/oab, to download or print the form. ★

TROUBLE ACCESSING OUR SYSTEM?

If you are having trouble accessing our website or online system, please make sure you are using the Internet Explorer browser. Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and other internet browsers are not compatible with the state's system. Please contact that Board if you need further assistance at (405) 521-2397. ★

Congratulations to Randy Ross, CPA!

Oklahoma Accountancy Board Executive Director, Randy Ross, CPA, became the 56th inductee into the Oklahoma Accounting Hall of Fame during the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA) dinner and award ceremony on Friday, June 5, at the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa.

Randy Ross, CPA and 2014-2015 OSCPA President, Dana Curtis Milligan, CPA

This prestigious award is bestowed upon individuals who substantially contribute to the accounting profession. When evaluating potential honorees, consideration is given to participation in the OSCPA, the AICPA, the Oklahoma Accountancy Board and community activism. Additionally, nominees are judged on leadership roles and career achievements.

Mr. Ross has been a CPA since 1983 and a member of the OSCPA for more than 30 years; serving on the OSCPA's Government Relations Committee, Members in Industry Committee, Accounting Careers Committee, and the OSCPA Speakers Bureau. In 2006, he also was awarded the OSCPA's Outstanding CPA in Business Industry.

Mr. Ross has been the Mayor of Choctaw, Oklahoma since 2004, received the 2014 Don Rider Award for long-term commitment to his community, the Light on Learning Award from the Choctaw Nicoma Park School Foundation (2000), and Certificate of Excellence from that school board. As mayor, he arranged to have property (valued at nearly half a million dollars) donated for parks and recreation, established a community action committee, started a successful Concert in the Park series, opened a new water park, established a community action line, and worked to open the city's first Walmart.

The University of Central Oklahoma, Mr. Ross' Alma Mater, has recognized him as a Presidential Partner and Distinguished Alumna. He is an officer in the Oklahoma Municipal League and in 2011 he was named an Honorary Crew Member by the Team Tinker Commstar Group.

Mr. Ross, CPA, has not only been a leader for many local Oklahoma communities, he has dutifully served the State of Oklahoma. He has held positions with the Oklahoma Tax Commission, the Oklahoma Group Insurance Board, and Oklahoma's Department of Central Services where he was responsible for a $60 million budget and the administration of the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority bonds, which was more than $1.7 billion.

Board members and staff are proud to congratulate Randy Ross, CPA on this outstanding accomplishment! ★

EBSA Issues Report on EBP Auditors

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) released its anticipated report on "Assessing the Quality of Employee Benefit Plan Audits" on May 28. For the 2011 filing year, 81,162 audit reports on employee benefit plans (EBP) were submitted to the EBSA by 7,330 different CPA firms. To study the quality of those reports, the EBSA reviewed a statistically valid sample of 400 plan audits performed by 232 firms. They found 61 percent of those audits fully complied with professional auditing standards or had only minor deficiencies. The other 39 percent contained major deficiencies with respect to one or more relevant GAAS requirements, which would lead to the rejection of a Form 5500 filing. The EBSA reports this put $653 billion and 22,500,000 plan participants and beneficiaries at risk.

As EBSA studies conducted in 1988, 1997 and 2004 previously found, once again the smaller the firm's employee benefit plan audit practice, the greater the incidence of audit deficiencies. The current study found CPAs often failed to consider the audit areas unique to employee benefit plans. However, the EBSA notes, firms that were members of the AICPA's Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center did tend to have fewer audits containing multiple GAAS deficiencies.

"NASBA representatives have been meeting with the Employee Benefits Security Administration's Chief Accountant, Ian Dingwall, and his staff, and we are pleased to see the recommendations contained in this report demonstrate the Department of Labor's desire to work more closely with the State Boards, to bring them into the information loop in a timely way when substandard work is submitted by the Boards' licensed firms," NASBA Executive Vice President Colleen K. Conrad observed.

The report lists several recommendations involving State Boards for the EBSA to pursue:

1. "Work with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the AICPA to improve the investigation and sanctioning process for those CPAs who perform significantly deficient audit work. Work with NASBA to get state boards of accountancy to accept the results of investigations performed by EBSA or AICPA's Professional Ethics division, in order to use those results in disciplining CPAs (at the state licensing level)."
2. "Work with NASBA to encourage state boards of accountancy to require specific licensing requirements for CPAs who perform employee benefit plan audits. This would include specific training and experience in the audits of employee benefit plans."
3. "Communicate with each of the state boards of accountancy (licensing boards) regarding the results of the study and the need to ensure that only competent CPAs are performing employee benefit plan audits."

Other recommendations include: Amend the ERISA to allow the Secretary of Labor to establish accounting principles and audit standards, and set regulations concerning the qualification requirements for those accountants performing employee benefit plan audits; Work with the AICPA's Peer Review staff to make Peer Review more responsive in helping to improve employee benefit plan audit quality; Amend the ERISA to repeal the limited-scope audit exemption; And continue and expand EBSA's outreach activities.

The full report can be found at www.dol.gov/ebsa/pdf/2014AuditReport.pdf. The report will be discussed at NASBA's Regional Meetings this month. ★

"EBSA Issues Report on EBP Auditors." *NASBA STATE BOARD REPORT*, **Volume XLIV, Number 6, June 2015.**

JANUARY –JUNE 2015 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

A complete list of OAB Enforcement Actions completed between January 1 and June 30, 2015, has been published on the OAB's website. The document can be found by clicking here:

January - June 30, 2015 Enforcement Actions

You may also locate the document by copying the hyperlink and pasting it into your browser's address bar. ★

OKLAHOMA ACCOUNTANCY BOARD

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WINDOW 1/2015

(01/01/2015 THROUGH 02/28/2015)

MIKKI RENEE ALLEN
WILLIAM CHANCE ALLISON
ANDREA ALVIS
MINDY RACHELLE ANDERSON
THEA DAWN BLACK
EMILIE ELIZABETH BLAKELEY
SPENCER EUGENE BOWEN
KATHARINE DIANN CHESSON
LORETTA DARLENE CRAWFORD
ISAAC JOHN DAVIS
JACOB ALEXANDER DUMAS
KRISTEN MARIE FENNEMA
AUSTIN SCOTT FOUST
ALLYSA FROST
JOSEPH KENNETH GRAVES II
MARCIA ELAINE HARRIS
DUSTIN ROY JOHNSON
MICHAEL CHARLES KEMPER
ABIGAIL MARIE MISHLER
LACEY L. MORGAN
TIAN PENG
DAWN RENA PERCER
SHANNON DIANE PORTER
CHRISTINE ANN SCHRAMECK-HAWKINS
AMBER DAWN SIMPSON
AARON JOHN SPOON
STEPHEN M. STETSON
BROCK DANIEL STOLTZFUS
MICHAEL STANLEY SUMMERS
DAVID JOHN THACKER
KRYSTLE COLLINS WALDEN

Total Successful Candidates
Window 1/2015 = 31

BOLD = Each section passed on first sitting

OKLAHOMA ACCOUNTANCY BOARD

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WINDOW 2/2015

(04/01/2015 THROUGH 05/31/2015)

THOMAS DAVID CORDRAY AUSTIN
JASON EVERETT BIXLER
AMBER DAWN BLYTHE
KEVIN DANIEL BOYD
SUSAN DEANN BROADDUS
CALEB J CALDWELL
MEGAN E CASAD
MARK W. CHOATE
DANIEL AARON DERRYBERRY
BRIAN WESLEY EASTMAN
DEVIN BLAKE ELDER
ZACHARY RYAN FLOURNOY
LYNLEY KAEL FOX
ANA MARIA FRANCO
RICKEY LEE GARRETT JR
LINDSEY NICOLE GOEDECKE
RYAN AUSTIN GOGA
AMANDA SHEA HALVERSON
TODD AARON HARRELL
KAREN LYNN HIGDON
SIDNEY OWEN HOFFSOMMER
JEREMY LEE JOHNSON
KYLE BRANDON KIRKPATRICK
JESSICA LINDSEY LAWSON
ROBERT FORD LEE
WEISHAN LIANG
GLORIA CELESTE LIPP-KRYSLER
PHILLIP DEE WAYNE MARTIN
WILLIAM ALLEN MCDONOUGH
JOHN ERIC MYERS
JANE IRVING NOLLEY
RACHEL M OLSEN
FENG OUYANG
HOLLY NICHOLE PANKHURST
NICHOLAS DAVID HOWARD PARSON
BENJAMIN JACOB PROVENS
BRIAN KARL ROSE
MOLLY ANN SIEGRIST
SARAH ALLISON STEELE
NICKOLAS RAY STORM
GABRIEL QUINN STROH
DARREN KIRK TOWNLEY
SHANNON LYNN VANWINKLE
TYLER JAMES WEIR
DAVID ANTHONY WILLIS
KAHLE BRENDON YOUNG

Total Successful Candidates
Window 2/2015 = 46

BOLD = Each section passed on first sitting